

The Grain Drum

KIDS HANDS-ON

RUN AT 10:40

25 MIN

The point

A sound you can barely see makes matter **move** — grains leap and dance on the drum. Moving matter takes energy, so **sound is energy**. Field-proven anchor: every child strikes.

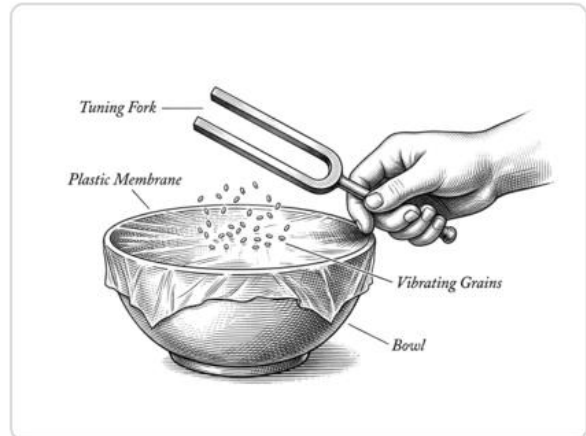
Materials

- Tuning fork set (owned)
- Plastic-wrap drum stretched over a bowl
- Coloured grains (dyed couscous/rice) in a cup
- A glass of water for the splash test

Steps

- 1 Sprinkle a spoonful of grains on the taut drum.
- 2 **PREDICT on the worksheet:** when the singing fork touches the drum edge, the grains will... sit still / jump and dance.
- 3 Each child in turn: strike the fork **on your knee** (never the table, never a person), hold it to your ear — hear it sing.
- 4 Dip the singing fork tips into the water glass — watch the splash! The wiggle is real and strong.
- 5 Strike again and touch the fork's base to the drum edge: the grains leap. Circle what happened.

Say: "The fork whispered — and the rice DANCED. Sound pushed matter around, and only energy can do that. Sound is energy on the move."



TEACHER PREP

Stretch and tape the wrap drums the night before; test that a struck fork makes the grains jump. Dye grains ahead and dry them fully.

What to watch for

- The water-splash moment sells the invisible wiggle before the drum does
- Every child gets a strike — the turn IS the lesson
- Knee-strike rule enforced every turn

EXPECTED RESULT

Grains dance on contact, every time, for every child. The predict box is settled by evidence and the sentence "sound is energy" belongs to the kids now.